

Private Land/Public Wildlife Council Meeting

February 19-20, 2014

Jorgenson Inn & Suites

1714 11th Ave, Helena, MT 59601

Meeting Objectives

- Review Block Management Program history, administration, and status
- Review the Block Management Program Audit Report
- Refine the Council's prioritized issues regarding the Block Management Program
- Refine the Council's prioritized issues focused on hunter, landowner, and outfitter relationships and hunting access
- Develop options to address the Council's prioritized Block Management Program issues

February 19th

- 8:00 a.m. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Joe Perry, PL/PW Council Chair, will open the meeting and welcome participants and FWP staff by way of introductions.
- REVIEW MEETING OBJECTIVES
Emily Schembra, Facilitator, will review the meeting objectives and agenda.
- 8:20 a.m. REVIEW BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM HISTORY, ADMINISTRATION, AND STATUS
Alan Charles, FWP Landowner/Sportsman Relations Coordinator, will review the Block Management Program, including history, administration, and status. Time for Q&A will follow all presentations.
- 8:45 a.m. REVIEW DEPARTMENT FINANCES
Sue Daly, FWP Finance Division Administrator, will discuss the status of BMP finances in the context of larger FWP Department and Access Program finances. Time for Q&A will follow all presentations.
- 9:05 a.m. REVIEW BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AUDIT REPORT
Joe Murray, Montana Legislative Audit Division, will review the Block Management Program Audit Report and discuss the recommendations with Council Members. Time for Q&A will follow all presentations.
- 9:30 a.m. BREAK
- 9:40 a.m. FACILITATED DISCUSSION WITH BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PRESENTERS
Council members will have an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters and to otherwise engage in conversation to clarify the information presented on the Block Management Program, BMP finances, and BMP Audit Report.

- 10:10 a.m. WORK SESSION – REFRAME AND REFINE BLOCK MANAGEMENT ISSUES
Building on the information and education session, the Council will reframe and refine the short-term BMP issues (i.e., to work on in the next six months) prioritized at the January meeting. These issues included:
- *Ensure adequate funding for the Block Management Program*
 - *Review the Block Management Program and assess recommendations made in the Block Management Program Audit Report*
- 11:30 a.m. DISCUSS CURRENT PROJECTS AND GOALS WITH ONE MONTANA
A representative from One Montana will spend 15 minutes discussing One Montana’s current access-related projects and goals with the Council, followed by 15 minutes for the Council to ask questions.
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (on-site)
- 1:00 p.m. LEARN FROM HUNTER, LANDOWNER, AND OUTFITTER REPRESENTATIVES
To inform and invigorate the Council’s discussion on how to improve landowner, hunter, and outfitter relations and access issues, Rob Arnaud, Nina Baucus, Randy Newberg, Jay Bodner, and Nick Gevock will respond to the following questions articulated by Council members at the January meeting:
- ***How can landowner, sportsmen, and outfitter relations be improved?*** *How can the Council work towards expanding the Montana Hunter-Landowner Stewardship Project, building mutual understanding between sportsmen, landowners, and outfitters with education and ethics training, and understanding ranchers’ expectations regarding Fish, Wildlife and Parks access programs? Can the BMP be marketed to highlight its success?*
 - ***How can access be improved?*** *How can the Council maximize use of the Fish, Wildlife and Parks access programs, gain a better understanding of – and communicate – access issues, and clearly explain the difference between payments for access and payments for impacts? Are there ways to avoid landowners using hunting access as a political pushback? What is the best way to provide a quality hunting experience?*
- Each speaker will have 15-20 minutes to present his or her responses to the questions. Following all three presentations, the speakers will spend 40 minutes taking questions as a panel from the Council.*
- 3:20 BREAK
- 3:30 DISCUSS RESPONSES FROM MONTANA ORGANIZATIONS
The Council will discuss responses to the questions articulated by Council members in January that were submitted from organizations interested in the Council’s work.

- 3:50 WORK SESSION – REFRAME AND REFINE ISSUES REGARDING RELATIONSHIPS AND ACCESS
Building on the information and education provided during the previous session, the Council will reframe and refine short-term questions regarding landowner, hunter, and outfitter relations and access issues prioritized in January.
- 4:30 p.m. PUBLIC COMMENT
- 5:00 p.m. WRAP-UP AND ADJOURN

February 20th

- 8:00 a.m. WELCOME
Joe Perry, PL/PW Council Chair, will open meeting, welcome participants, and review the daily agenda.
- 8:15 a.m. DEVELOP CRITERIA TO EVALUATE OPTIONS
Council members will discuss the purpose of criteria prior to building agreement around a set of criteria that Council members will use to evaluate options and recommendations in the future.
- 9:15 a.m. DEVELOP OPTIONS TO ADDRESS BLOCK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ISSUES
Council members will generate a package of options to address the prioritized BMP issues. The options developed by Council members will lay the groundwork for future work and recommendations to improve the BMP.
- 11:30 p.m. WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS
 - *Develop March agenda*
- 12:00 p.m. ADJOURN AND LUNCH (on-site)